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Golden Gate Audubon Society      Berkeley, California      Volume 71      Number 11      December 1989



# THE GULL

## SPONSORS BOW TO BIG TIMBER

On Sunday, Sept. 24, the most recent *World of Audubon* television special, "Rage Over Trees" was aired on TBS without commercial sponsorship. The program documents the public debate over protection of the Northwest's remaining ancient forests on public lands.

Every commercial sponsor to the program told Turner Broadcasting officials that they had decided to pull the ads as a result of threats and intimidation by the timber industry.

This most recent action followed cancellation of underwriting for the entire Audubon television series by Stroh Brewery. Although Stroh was undergoing financial problems, the timber industry also launched a letter writing campaign and threatened the brewery with a boycott.

"This is the last gasp in a desperate effort to stop the American people from seeing a major documentary film about the public debate over protection of the Northwest's remaining ancient forests on public land," said NAS President, Peter Berle. "We firmly believe the public will be furious about this attempt at censorship, which runs counter to every principle of free speech embodied in the First Amendment." Timber industry representatives have labeled Audubon as extremists when, in fact, they are really taking extreme actions, and Audubon represents the mainstream viewpoint on this issue.

Corporations that cancelled their commercial air time include **Ford Motor Company, Dean Witter, Reynolds Co. for their *Discover* Card, ITT Rayonier Inc., Hartford Insurance Group, Exxon, Michelin Tire Corp., Stroh, New York Life, and Citicorp.** Audubon is now seeking a new underwriter for the series.

*(continued over-leaf)*

## A DECEMBER MEETING

As we promised last month there will be a special membership meeting of GGAS on **Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m.** in Berkeley at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. The speaker, GGAS member Barry Rokeach, photographer, flyer, will talk about his book, *TIMESCAPES*, with slides from the book. See *The GULL* for October (p. 144) and November (p. 150).

Turner Broadcasting deserves to know that there is a large constituency that values Ted Turner's willingness to support the Audubon cause by airing the program in spite of suffering large financial losses due to the pullout of the sponsorship. It is especially important that Turner Broadcasting officials have documentation to this effect to help win back commercial sponsorship of the Audubon television series and keep it on the air. Audubon members, family, and friends are strongly encouraged to send a letter to Ted Turner at Turner Broadcasting, 1 CNC Center, Atlanta, GA 30348-5366 expressing support and also asking him to continue sponsoring Audubon television specials.

**TO GET TWO FORKS VETOED  
AND HELP SAVE THE PLATTE**

Write to: Lee A. DeHihns, Regional Decision Officer, c/o Mary Alice Reedy, Record Clerk, EPA Region VIII (8WM-SP), 999 18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colo. 80202-2405.

**What to say:**

- Request that EPA veto Two Forks permanently.
- Two Forks is unnecessary. A variety of less expensive and less environmentally damaging alternatives exist.
- Two Forks would degrade critical wildlife habitat on the Platte River in Central Nebraska, severely affecting almost all the world's sandhill cranes as well as endangered whooping cranes, bald eagles, least terns, and piping plovers.
- Two Forks reservoir would destroy forever a "gold medal" trout stream.



## WHAT YOU MISSED

The GGAS field trip Oct. 9, 1989 to the Emeryville Crescent and surrounding area had good weather, low temperature with some fog followed by sun. The tide was high so few mud flats were exposed for birds, also a cleanup crew was working in the area. Seventeen participants and two leaders saw forty-one species:

Common Loon .....	1
Pied-billed Grebe .....	3
Horned Grebe .....	4
Double-crested Cormorant .....	19
Great Egret .....	1
Mallard .....	2
Surf Scoter .....	4
Red-shouldered Hawk .....	1
American Coot .....	5
Black-bellied Plover .....	4
Semi-palmated Plover .....	2
Killdeer .....	3
Black-necked Stilt .....	7
American Avocet .....	2
Willet .....	21
Spotted Sandpiper .....	2
Whimbrel .....	9
Long-billed Curlew .....	7
Marbled Godwit .....	19
Ruddy Turnstone .....	7
Sanderling .....	5
Western Sandpiper .....	6
Least Sandpiper .....	13
Short-billed Dowitcher .....	7
Ring-billed Gull .....	10
California Gull .....	11
Western Gull .....	7
Forster's Tern .....	7
Mourning Dove .....	2
Anna's Humminbird .....	1
Belted Kingfisher .....	1
Bushtit .....	11
American Pippit .....	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	9
Song Sparrow .....	5
Golden-crowned Sparrow .....	3
White-crowned Sparrow .....	9

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Red-winged Blackbird .....	(heard)
Western Meadowlark .....	1
Brewer's Blackbird .....	3
House Finch .....	30

Anna Wilcox and Jean-Marie Spoelman were leaders for the trip. Thanks to them for the report.

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Saturday, December 2**—U.C. Raptor Rehabilitation Center.

**Saturday, December 9**—Monterey Bay and Coastal Areas.

**Wednesday, December 13**—Mini-trip to Lake Merritt.

For details on the above, see *The GULL* for November.

**Saturday, January 6**—Stockton/Lodi and Thornton. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Stockton sewage ponds at the main gate. From the Bay Area take Hwy. 580 to Hwy. 4 (Charter Way in Stockton). Go west on Hwy. 4 about 1.5 miles to the entrance to the sewage ponds where we will look for rare gulls, then caravan to the Lodi sewage ponds for rare shorebirds and to Thornton to look for cranes.

Target birds will be Little Gull, Golden Plover, and Bendire's Thrasher. Dress warmly and be prepared for rain. Bring lunch. Leader: David Yee (209/951-1526). (✓)

**Sunday, January 7**—Dillon Beach. Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, Section H (just east of the Sir Francis Drake off-ramp from Hwy. 101). We will leave there promptly at 8 a.m. for the town of Tomales, where we will meet the people from west Marin at 9 a.m. by the old Bank of America building on Hwy. 1. From there we will continue to caravan to Lawson's Landing (entrance fee).

We may see three species of Loons, Red-necked Grebes, White Pelicans, Brants, Snowy Plovers, and Golden Plovers. Bring lunch, warm clothes, raingear, and a scope if you have one.

Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). (\$) (✓)

**Wednesday, January 10**—Mini-trip to Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the marsh. Take Hwy. 880 (Nimitz) to the Hegenberger exit. Drive west to Doolittle and turn right. Go a short distance and turn right onto Swan. Turn left after about a block and follow the signs to the marsh. Park in the second parking lot on the left. We will look for burrowing owls and waterfowl. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

**Sunday, Jan. 15**—Grizzley and Joice Islands Wildlife Area. Take I-80 north to Fairfield, and then the West Texas St. exit for about one-half mile to the City Park. Meet at the parking lot near the entrance at 8:30 a.m. We will caravan from there to the refuge. We should see a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and marsh birds. Bring lunch and scopes. Leader: Peter Allen (829-8063). (✓)

**Saturday, January 20**— Carrizo Plain. Meet at 8 a.m. in the town of Cholame (on Hwy. 46 midway between Kettleman City on I-5 and Paso Robles on Hwy. 101. Lodging is available in both cities). From the Bay Area drive south on I-5 to Kettleman City, then west for 28 miles on Hwy. 41 to the intersection of Hwy. 46. Continue west on 46 to Cholame. Or, from the Bay Area drive south on Hwy. 101 to Paso Robles, then east for 24 miles on Hwy. 46 to Cholame. Driving time is four and one-half to five hours, so we suggest you plan to arrive Friday evening to be ready for a full day of birding on Saturday.

Bring a lunch, liquids, warm clothes, and perhaps a scope. We will caravan from Cholame to Carrizo Plain. This area is excellent for a wide variety of raptors, and Mountain Plovers, Longspurs, and Sandhill Cranes are



usually seen. Not only will we see birds, but we will also learn about the geology of the area from Eben McMillan, the leader and a lifelong resident rancher. The San Andreas Fault is very much in evidence (hopefully not too much) and is an outstanding feature here. Much of the area has been purchased by the Nature Conservancy to establish a refuge.

Considering the length of the drive and the possibility of adverse weather conditions, it is possible that this trip will be cancelled at the last minute. It will also be called off if there is an insufficient number of participants. It is therefore important that you notify the GGAS office (843-2222) if you plan to participate. Leave your name, number in your party, and a phone number where you can be reached. Leader: Eben McMillan. (✓)

**Carpooling** arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

**Problems:** If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (524-2399).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE



### 90 and Counting

On the eve of the new century, 90 years ago, Frank M. Chapman, then

editor of *Bird Lore*, (precursor to our own Audubon magazine), had an idea that brightened an otherwise cold and blustery winter's day.

Rather than partaking in the traditional "Christmas Side Hunt" of birds, why not go out and take a census of them? Everyone could participate—old and young, women and men—and it would be a lot more fun for the birds!

So the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count was born, the most popular outdoor activity of its kind in the world. Twenty-seven bird-watchers pioneered that first count; today, more than 42,000 people are expected to brave sometimes inclement weather in search of their feathered friends. There are Christmas counts in all 50 states, in Canada, in Mexico and Central America, and in South America. All together, these counts will tally hundreds of species and millions of individual birds.

The rules for conducting a Christmas Bird Count are simple: each count selects a date within a two-and-a-half week period around Christmas (this year, December 16, 1989 through January 3, 1990). Each count area is restricted to a circle 15 miles in diameter, and no two count areas may overlap. Within the chosen 24-hour period, birders scour the area looking for as many species and individuals as they can spot. While not in the official rules, most counts end with a hearty, well-deserved dinner where the final results are compiled.

Because of its longevity and durability—90 uninterrupted years—the Christmas Bird Count has contributed a data base of immense importance to researchers and wild-life biologists. Its picture of early-winter avian population trends, published exclusively in Audubon's ornithological field journal, *American Birds*, is helping scientists determine the relative abundance of

many species and may even lead to winning endangered species status for some.

Anyone and everyone can take part in the Christmas Bird Count. Turn to page 177 for the Oakland and San Francisco count details.

#### OTHER COUNT DATES:

Dec. 16—Point Reyes	868-1221
David Wimpfheimer	
Dec. 16—Mono Lake	(619) 647-6525
Tina Hargis	
Dec. 17—Bishop	(619) 938-2916
Earl Gann	
Dec. 21—Death Valley and	
Dec. 23—Lone Pine	(619) 876-5807
Mike Prather	

## OBSERVATIONS

### September 26 through October 26

I hoped to tell of fantastic happenings like Black Rails by the dozen running about in the open, or mockingbirds escorting little old kitty cats across busy streets just before the big quake, but the best I can offer is this: a two-year-old Blue-and-Yellow Macaw, which ordinarily has a loud vocabulary of 10 phrases, had been particularly quiet the week prior to the quake, and began whispering for the first time in its life at about 4:45 p.m. Oct. 17 (JBB). At least two landbird waves corresponded with cloudy, foggy weather Sept. 28–Oct. 1, and Oct. 10–12, but significant numbers of landbirds were also found Oct. 19, maybe because birder weekday pursuits had come to a standstill. All SE Farallon Island information is courtesy (PRBO).

#### Tubenoses

A Laysan Albatross was found on a Monterey Bay pelagic trip Oct. 15 (GMcK). One to two Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen on Oct. 7 (THK, CSp), and one was found on Oct. 8 (CKf), on pelagic trips out of Monterey. A few Buller's Shearwaters were noted on a trip to the Farallones Sept. 30 (DWm), and four were observed Oct.

7 on a Monterey Bay pelagic trip (THK). One Wilson's Storm-Petrel was watched by pelagic birders out of Monterey Bay Oct. 7 (THK, CSp).

A White-faced Ibis joined the migrating hawks over the Marin Headlands Sept. 29 (CLF).

#### Wintering Ducks

The first reports of wintering uncommon ducks came in early October—mostly Blue-winged Teal and Eurasian Wigeon sightings. The earliest Blue-winged Teal were two noted at Palo Alto Flood Control Basin Oct. 9 (PJM), and a Eurasian Wigeon was at Horse-shoe Pond, Pt. Reyes Oct. 8 (BDP). Hereafter, I will include only first arrival dates, latest departure dates, unusually large numbers, or unusual locations for some of the "rare" winter visitors, but you are encouraged to continue to give your reports to Joe Morland or myself so that we may include them in the database. The eclipse-plumaged male **King Eider**, which was first found Aug. 30, was still feeding on the beach edge near New Willows, Pt. Reyes, through Oct. 22 (GFi, mob, MWi). A male Harlequin Duck, at Año Nuevo since May 29, remained at least through Oct. 8 (JBr, JM, PJM), and one was discovered at Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay Oct. 14 (FGB).

#### Migrating Hawks

At least 70 Broad-winged Hawks had been tallied at Hill 129, Marin Headlands, by Oct. 16 (CLF, KM), and one was seen from San Bruno Mt. Oct. 7 (HBr, *fide* JMcC). On Oct. 1 a Ferruginous Hawk, two Merlin, and a Prairie Falcon flew over Marin Headlands (DES).

#### Shorebirds

Lesser Golden-Plover away from the immediate coast were four *dominica* and 2–4 *fulva* at Lodi Sewage Ponds Oct. 7 (DSg). The **Mongolian Plover** at the RCA Station, Pt. Reyes, was last seen Sept. 25 (KH). Two Ruffs were



discovered at Pt. Reyes on Sept. 28: one at Spaletta Slop Ponds and another at Schooner Bay (JE). Another was at Salinas Sewage Ponds Oct. 15 (SSc). A Reeve was seen at Kent Island, Bolinas Lagoon Oct. 19 (KH), and another female Ruff was at the Lodi Sewage Ponds Oct. 26 (DGY).

Two Pomarine Jaegers were spotted from land: one at Hayward Landing Oct. 1 (RJR), and one at Pebble Beach, San Mateo Co., Oct. 24 (JMS). One Parasitic Jaeger was at Bolinas lagoon Sept. 27 (KH), and another was reported from there Oct. 17 (StM). Two Parasitics were seen from Pebble Beach Oct. 1 (JC). Two South Polar Skuas on Oct. 7 (THK, CSp), and one on Oct. 8 (DGY, *fide* PDG, DCR), were observed from pelagic boats out of Monterey. One South Polar Skua was observed from SE Farallon Island. An adult Little Gull was reported at Horseshoe Pond Oct. 16 (StM) where one had been present Aug. 20–Sept. 18. A Sabine's Gull was at Charleston Slough Oct. 3 (PJM), the same bird which was there Sept. 17? One last Thick-billed Murre, offshore from Cannery Row in Monterey Bay, was seen Oct. 19 (mob, GLc). There had been four to five of these very rare murre in the vicinity since Sept. 8 (as reported last month).

### Landbirds

At Candlestick Park Saturday night, Oct. 7, during the Giants-Cubs playoff series, a small bird, fluttering around the lights during the last three innings, caused confusion among the TV bird-watching ranks. It was reported as a possible Ashy Storm-Petrel or, more probably, a Lesser Nighthawk. (PLN). Three innings sounds like real grand-standing to me, but at least no one described it as a fowl.

A Great-crested Flycatcher visited SE Farallon Sept. 27. Four Tropical Kingbirds reached our area: one at

Waddell Creek mouth Oct. 8 (MDa), and one at Antonelli's Pond Oct. 8–9 (CKf)—both Santa Cruz Co.; one at Bodega Bay Oct. 19 (DN), and one at Inverness Yacht Club Oct. 20–21 (LJB *fide* GSL, GSL). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was seen at Hill 129, Marin Headlands Sept. 29 (JTr, MVZ class), and one flew over the Fish Docks parking lot at Pt. Reyes Sept. 29 (MLR). A Sage Thrasher stayed at SE Farallon Sept. 28–Oct. 1, and another visited the lupine saddle which is between the Lighthouse and Road Forks Pool, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 11 (RS). The **Bendire's Thrasher**, which was favored 333 Jahant Road, Lodi for the last two winters (since Oct. 31, 1987), returned again: Sept. 30 at least to Oct. 19 (DGY, GMcK). A **Wagtail**, which was seen and photographed at Rodeo Lagoon Oct. 1 before it flew south over the Headlands, was either a White or Black-backed, but description and photos suggest **White Wagtail** (KM, CLF, JDiD). Two Red-throated Pipits reached SE Farallon, one Sept. 27 and one Oct. 14. Two Solitary Vireos of the plumbeous type were discovered: one at Mendoza Ranch Oct. 13 (DSg), and one at Coyote Hills Oct. 15 (RJR). Philadelphia Vireos are notoriously slow-moving birds, but one which arrived at SE Farallon Oct. 25 surpassed Island records for late arrival date.

### Vagrant Warblers

The following warbler chart uses the same format as that of last month, and it lists 221 individuals of 17 species. Combining this with the totals for the last two months we have 357 individuals since 1974.

**Tennessee Warbler** (total 8–9; 24–25 for fall)

2	SE Farallon	Oct. 10–12	PRBO
1	Pt. Reyes-Mendoza	Sept. 29	D De S
3	Fish Docks	Oct. 1; 4; 11	JMcC; RMS; RS

1	Bodega Bay	Oct. 2	DN
1–2	SF Bay, NWR, Fremont	Oct. 7	RJR

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** (total 6; 9 for fall)

4	SE Farallon	Sept. 28	PBRO
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1	Princeton Harbor	Sept. 25	PJM
1	Bodega Bay	Sept. 12	DN,NTC
<b>Magnolia Warbler</b> (total 7; 18 for fall)			
4	SE Farallon	Sept. 28– Oct. 20	PRBO
2	Bodega Bay	Sept. 30; Oct. 19	DN
1	Princeton	Oct. 24	PJM
<b>Cape May Warbler</b> (total 2; 2 for fall)			
2	SE Farallon	Sept. 30– Oct. 11	PRBO
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b> (total 11; 11 for fall)			
5	SE Farallon	Oct. 8–26	PRBO
1	Pt. Reyes-Nunes	Sept. 28	MLR
2	Lighthouse	Oct. 11	RS
		(ml & fem)	
2	Fish Docks	Oct. 12	RS
		(both fem)	
1	Ft. Funston, S.F.	Oct. 22	ASm
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b> (total 3; 8 for fall)			
2	SE Farallon	Sept. 28; Oct. 7	PRBO
1	Berkeley	Sept. 26	HG,PDG
<b>Prairie Warbler</b> (total 2; 4 for fall)			
2	SE Farallon	Oct. 4;10	PRBO
<b>Palm Warbler</b> (total 126; 131 for fall)			
64	SE Farallon	Sept. 26– Oct. 26	PRBO
37	Pt. Reyes only	Sept. 28– Oct. 21	mob
7	Marin Co. other	Sept. 30– Oct. 25	mob
8	San Mateo Co.	Sept. 29– Oct. 24	mob
7	Bodega Bay	Oct. 2–20	mob
2	Palo Alto	Oct. 6;7	PJM
1	Ft. Funston	Oct. 16	SMo
<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b> (total 3; 4 for fall)			
2	SE Farallon	Sept. 28; Oct. 10	PRBO
1	Pt. Reyes-Lighthouse	Oct. 11	RS
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b> (total 24; 42 for fall)			
8	SE Farallon	Sept. 27– Oct. 6	PRBO
1	Pt. Reyes-Nunes	Sept. 28– 29	MLR,BHi
1;3	Mendoza	Sept. 28;29	MLR;DDeS, MLR
3	Lighthouse	Oct. 11	RS
2	Road Forks Pool	Oct. 12	RS
1	Palomarin	Sept. 25– Oct. 1	PRBO, <i>fide</i> KH,DDeS
(banded and recaptured)			
1	S.F.-Golden Gate Park	Sept. 29	SMo
1	Lincoln Park	Oct. 3	ASH
1	Bolinas School	Oct. 12	RS
1	Bodega Bay	Oct. 12	DN
1	Pescadero	Oct. 14	RSTh
1	Pillar Pt.	Oct. 15	DKe

<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b> (total 4; 9 for fall)			
1	SE Farallon	Oct. 10–12	PRBO
1	Pt. Reyes-Fish Docks	Sept. 25	TE
1	New Willows	Sept. 30	BHi, BDP
1	Pescadero (town)	Oct. 8	RSTh
<b>American Redstart</b> (total 17; 57 for fall)			
4	SE Farallon	Sept. 30– Oct. 12	PRBO
2	Pt. Reyes-Mendoza	Sept. 27– 29; Oct. 3	KH, MLR JMR
2	Lighthouse	Sept. 29; Oct. 8	MLR; JM
1	Marin Headlands	Sept. 29	Ghg
3	Bodega Bay	Sept. 29– 30 (2); Oct. 12	DN
1	S.F.-Golden Gate Park	Sept. 30– Oct. 1	ShH, <i>fide</i> JM
3	Lincoln Park	Sept. 30– Oct. 3; Oct. 1–3 (2)	SC x, ASH; ASH
1	Ano Nuevo Ranch	Oct. 1	RSTh
<b>Prothonotary Warbler</b> (total 2; 2 for fall)			
1	SE Farallon	Oct. 23	PRBO
(second Island record)			
1	Half Moon Bay	Sept. 29– 30	PJM, RSTh MLR
<b>Ovenbird</b> (total 2; 8 for fall)			
1	SE Farallon	Sept. 28	PRBO
1	Hayward Shoreline	Sept. 29	RJR
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b> (total 1; 15 for fall)			
1	SE Farallon	Oct. 7	PRBO
<b>Connecticut Warbler</b> (total 2; 3 for fall)			
2	SE Farallon	Sept. 28– 29; Oct. 11	PRBO
<b>Hooded Warbler</b> (total 1; 1 for fall)			
1	SE Farallon	Oct. 11	PRBO

A Virginia's Warbler was banded at Palomarin Oct. 1 (DDeS), and one wandered to SE Farallon Oct. 11–17. **More Landbird Strays**

A Summer Tanager of the race *cooperi* was on SE Farallon Oct. 12–13. This may be a first northern California record of the southwestern subspecies. Two Rosebreasted Grosbeaks visited SE Farallon: one Sept. 28 and one Oct. 11–15. A female Indigo Bunting was found in Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay Sept. 29 (DN).

An American Tree Sparrow stopped at Hole-in-the-Head, Bodega Bay Oct. 19–21 (DN). Clay-colored Sparrows were numerous—twenty-one recorded in our area during the period. Ten on

one day at SE Farallon was an island high count. One Brewer's Sparrow found Pilarcitos Creek mouth Oct. 22 (PJM), and a Vesper Sparrow was along East Wash, Lincoln Park Oct. 1 (ASH). Another Vesper Sparrow checked out the Palo Alto Dump Oct. 9 (PJM). A LeConte's Sparrow was at SE Farallon Oct. 7. One Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at Princeton Harbor Oct. 15 (DKe). Another Sharp-tailed reached SE Farallon for a first Island record! Many Swamp and White-throated Sparrows returned to our area during the period from Sonoma to Santa Cruz Cos. (mob). A Harris' Sparrow visited a Mill Valley feeder Oct. 18 (JCo). Pt. Reyes Lapland Longspurs were at the following locations during the period: one at the Lighthouse Oct. 1 (JMD), one at Abbott's Lagoon Oct. 1 (LJP), and two at Spaletta Plateau Oct. 8 (BDP). Up to two Lapland's were found along Highway 37 in Solano Co. Oct. 24-25 (DDeS). Two Chestnut-collared Longspurs were discovered at Spaletta Plateau Oct. 3 (SEF), and a single bird was there Oct. 10-13 (GFi, DSg). One or two were flying over Bolinas Sewage Ponds Oct. 20(RS). Five Bobolinks were logged in at SE Farallon Sept. 28-Oct. 16. A Rusty Blackbird was discovered at Bolinas Sewage Ponds Oct. 20-21 (RS).

**Observers:** Larry J. Barnes, D. Bedford, Florence G. Bennett, Herb Brant (HBr), Leah Brant, Joyce B. Brekke, Joe Broyles (JBr), Bill Chilson, Jim Coe, John Comstock (JCo), Nancy T. Conzett, Scott Cox (SCx), Maryann Danielson (MDa), J. Michael Danzenbaker, Dave DeSante, Joe DiDonato (JDID), Todd Eastly, Jimm Edgar, Al M. Eisner, Carter L. Faust, Shawneen E. Finnegan, George Finger (GFi), Al Ghiorso, Phil E. Gordon, Edward D. Greaves, Helen Green, Paul D. Green, Keith Hansen, Shan Hayes (ShH),

Kevin G. Hints, Bob Hirt (BHi), David A. Holway, Alan S. Hopkins, George Hugenberg (GHg), Dan Keller (DKe), Clay Kempf (CKf), Ted H. Koundakjian, George Ledec (GLe), Gary S. Lester, John McCormick, Gail McKernon, Robert V. Merrill, Kevin Metcalf, Peter J. Metropulos, Steve Molodnoff (StM), Joseph Morlan, Scott Morrical (SMo), Museum of Vertebrate Zoology class, Dan Nelson, Paul L. Noble, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon REport thanks to Peter Pyle), Lina J. Prairie, David C. Rice, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, Steve Schafer, Donald E. Schmoldt, Debra Love Shearwater (DLSh), Larry Silver, Dan Singer (DSg), Ann Smith (ASm), Jean-Marie Spoelman, Chris Spooner (CSp), Rich Stallcup, Robert M. Stewart, Ron S. Thorn (RSTh), John Trochet (JTr), Mike Williams (MWi), David Wimpfheimer (DWm), David G. Yee.

Please Report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288 or 524-5592.

—HELEN GREEN

Observations Editor  
2001 Yolo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707

## PRESIDIO BIRD SURVEY

The San Francisco Conservation Committee (GGAS) is looking for volunteers and alternates to participate in a bird survey of the San Francisco Presidio. The study is planned for censusing twice a month for one year. This is a golden opportunity to provide much needed information that will effect future planning activities at the Presidio. Our proposal has been enthusiastically received by GGNRA representatives. We need competent birders willing to commit to this year-long study. Please call Janet Murphy, 751-0197, for more information and possible schedules.





## OAKLAND

What better way to spend a Sunday in December than counting for the Oakland Christmas Bird Count? It combines fun with gathering important information on our bird populations. From daybreak to sunset, legions of birders will be combing redwood groves, scanning mudflats and searching parks throughout the East Bay. From novice to expert, your help is needed. The day is Sunday, Dec. 17.

If you want to participate please call Barbara Rivenes at the GGAS office or a compiler:

Lina Prairie 549-3187

David Rice 527-7210

The Countdown Dinner this year will be at the Kensington Community Center (the refurbished old Youth Hut) at 59 Arlington Ave.

## SAN FRANCISCO

Now is the time to plan to take part in the Seventh Annual SF Christmas Bird Count on Thursday, Dec. 28. Join a full day team in a major area, bird for a few hours at a downtown or neighborhood park or square, or watch in your back yard for as little as thirty minutes.

We are interested in increasing the amount of our count circle area we cover with a boat. If you can help by providing a boat please call Alan Hopkins.

The Countdown Dinner is at the Hall of Flowers once again. This year's T-shirt design is by Alan Hopkins and features Tufted Ducks.

To sign up please call a compiler:

Dan Murphy 564-0074

Alan Hopkins 664-0993

Donna Lion 337-1979

## REFRESHING

Penny Watson has graciously volunteered to assume hosting duties for GGAS meetings in San Francisco. Penny, who is active in the raptor migration census at GGNRA, replaces Clyde Morris. She has already done an admirable job, baking ginger snaps for the October meeting. Many thanks, Penny.

## STRYBING/GGAS SIGNS

More than 250,000 visitors pass through Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park each year. In addition to the exotic botanical specimens, these visitors also notice a diverse bird population there. To educate them regarding the fifteen most common species, the Pacific Flyway, and the importance of wetlands, GGAS, in cooperation with Strybing, has erected striking, informative signs. We provided half the funding, and the expertise of GGAS members Alan Hopkins, Arthur Feinstein, Janet Murphy, and Tom White went into the wording on the signs. The Arboretum, ably guided by the enthusiastic Laurie Goldman and Wald Valen, funded the remainder and coordinated the efforts of artist Elizabeth Morales-Denney and the sign manufacturer. To see the signs, enter the Arboretum through the North gate, opposite the Japanese Tea Garden. Walk straight down the path 200 yards to the pond. The silver-black metallic signs are on the left of the footbridge. GGAS is proud of these signs and hopes to be involved in more public out-reach projects. Congratulations to all those involved in this worthy undertaking.

—TOM WHITE, President

## STATE WATER BOARD HEARING POLLUTANTS IN BAY

How much pollution should be allowed to flow into the San Francisco Bay-

Delta Estuary per year? Should dredge spoils be dumped in the Bay? When are reductions in waste discharges into the Bay justified and when are they too expensive? The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is working on a Pollutant Policy Document (PPD) for the Estuary intended to help answer these questions. On December 11th, you will have a chance to let the Board know what *you* think about protection of the Estuary.

The draft PPD is controversial. Many feel that it too easy on dischargers, that it will allow continued degradation of water quality. Others are concerned that overly harsh restrictions on dischargers could have a negative impact on the Bay Area economy.

The SWRCB will hold a public hearing to take testimony on the adequacy of the draft on December 11 at 7:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Contra Costa Water District at 1331 Concord Avenue in Concord. This will be your one chance to address the State Water Board on this crucial document. Even if you do not speak, your attendance will highlight the concern of Bay Area residents for water quality in the Estuary.

Copies of the draft Pollutant Policy Document can be obtained from Bonnie Hard at the State Water Board at (916) 322-0588. Those wishing to speak should call David Beringer at (916) 322-9870.

## USING INVESTMENT PRESSURE

Not unrelated to the "hard ball" of the "timber bullies" noted on the cover, Peter A. A. Berle writes:

National Audubon along with several other environmental groups, in conjunction with an organization called the Social Investment Forum in Boston and pension fund managers from the City and State of New York as well as

California, have organized a Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economics.

We have developed a set of guidelines for corporate conduct, called the "Valdez Principles". The code is designed to influence corporate culture and the flow of capital. It is also intended to enable investors and consumers to assess the activities of a particular corporation and compare it with others in the same industry. The next step in the process is to draw up guidelines and establish criteria by which corporate conduct can be measured. We held a press conference in New York City to release the document, and there has been a fair amount of coverage in the print media about it.

### THE BAYKEEPER

If you are interested in volunteering, **Baykeeper** needs people to help with the hot line (1-800-KEEPBAY). It offers training to certify "baykeepers" who will patrol the Bay and Delta. It asks you to report oil slicks, fish or bird kills, floating sewage, water discolorization, leaking landfills, vessels discharging oil or waste.

**BAYKEEPER** is a project of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Preservation Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of San Francisco Bay and Delta. The work supplements that of the enforcement branches of regulatory agencies and will detect and document violations of environmental regulations. It aims to raise public awareness concerning threats to the Bay and Delta by providing accurate information to agencies, advocacy groups and the media. It serves as an antenna for citizen complaints and acts as a deterrent to illegal activities on the Bay and Delta. Can you help?

### BACK YARD BIRDER

Back Yard Birder Meg Pauletich, taking a rest this month, will be back next month. In her place is a poem sent in in response to her column in *The GULL* for October.

### POETRY SECTION

#### Ode to Onomatology

How frequently the British Bird  
Has names that sound (to me) absurd.

Even in good old Chaucer's days  
They named their birds in froward ways,  
For who would call a bird a Chough?  
The (later) Ruff is bad enough.

Thereafter, when Linnaeus rules,  
In Graeco-Latin all were schooled.  
The Wigeon, thus, sometimes the Whin  
Science then named, for reasons dim  
A classic *Anas penelope*.

Which doesn't rhyme with Phalarope; he  
From the Greek is *Phalaropus*  
By some trans-fretal hocus pocus.

*Phalacrocorax* is the Shag,  
A fishy bird, and the Gray Lag  
Is a wild goose, in Latin *Anser*.  
The smew is close to the Goosander.

Wryneck is *Jynx* (Greek), with the Pici  
New-Latin; rhymes with nisi.

The Hoopoe, curious feathered clown,  
*Upupa epops* is, which down-  
Right onomatopoeia brings  
Into generic labellings.

The Stint, the Whaup, the Whimbrel, too,  
Are *Charadriiformes*, who  
Also include the Jack Curlew—  
All quite distinct from the Calloo.

Trespassing the Atlantic barrier  
The Marsh Hawk becomes a Harrier.  
Their Sparrow Hawk is an Accipiter-  
A stubborn rhyme for an inscriptor.

And, blazoning the historic air,  
Strange names familiar falcons bear,  
Like Hobby, Merlin, Peregrine.  
And there's a Shrike—Isabeline!

There's also Tidley, Whilk and Spink,  
Rodge, Gook, and Rixy, Ebb and Twink.  
But that is quite enough I think.

STOWELL ROUNDS  
Ukiah



# SEED SALE - JANUARY

The seed sale planned for early in January will occur later in the month. Look for an announcement and order forms in *The GULL* for January.

# RARE BIRD ALERT LIST

Already there are corrections to the list included in *The GULL* for October:

<b>Arkansas</b>	
Statewide .....	(501) 753-5853
<b>California</b>	
Los Angeles .....	(213) 874-1318
San Diego .....	(619) 479-3400
	(daily update)
<b>Maryland</b>	
Harford Co. ....	(301) 638-0290
<b>Mississippi</b>	
Coast .....	(601) 467-9500
<b>Ohio</b>	
Cincinnati .....	(513) 521-2847
<b>Oregon</b>	
Southern .....	(503) 826-7011
	(10 p.m. to 6 a.m. weekdays only)
<b>Texas</b>	
Statewide .....	(713) 821-2846
<b>Virginia</b>	
Statewide .....	(804) 929-1736
	and (301) 652-1088
<b>Wisconsin</b>	
Madison .....	(608) 255-2476
	(Except 9-3 weekdays)
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	
Provincewide .....	(902) 852-2428
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	
Regina .....	(306) 545-2825

The listing was printed directly from its appearance in the publication of another Audubon Chapter. A note from the editor of *Winging It*, newsletter of the America Birding Association, Inc. asks that that publication be acknowledged as the source of the information, and kindly supplied the updating above.

# BIRDING THE BAY IN WINTER

Classes	Mondays, Jan. 9, 16 & 23 7 to 9 p.m.
Field Trip:	Saturday, Jan. 20 8 to 11 a.m.
Instructor:	Dan Murphy

This California Academy of Sciences beginning birding class had been originally scheduled for November but was postponed until January. With slides, maps, three lectures and a field trip geared for the beginning birder, the class explores many of San Francisco Bay's favorite birding sites, discuss their habitats and learn to identify the most common wintering waterfowl, waders, shorebirds and landbirds found in bayshore habitats.

The class requires the use of binoculars and the National Geographic *Field Guide to North American Birds*, available from the GGAS office in Berkeley or from the CAS Bookstore in San Francisco.

Registration is \$45 to GGAS and CAS members and \$55 to non-members. Mail your registration to: Adult Education Office, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118; or call for more information at 750-7100.

# SIMPLIFY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Come by the GGAS office on scenic Strawberry Creek Park in Berkeley from 9-12 and 1-4 Tuesday through Friday for some special bird-related gifts. We have feeders, both seed and nectar, in several sizes, seed, Golden Gate patches for jacket or pack, a special count T-shirt (sized S, M, L, XL, see design on p. 177.), books calendars and engagement books, and our own Wetland Series note cards. Come by and have a look.

Here are some suggestions: (prices include sales tax; for mail orders phone the office for details)

Audubon Calendar .....	\$ 9.50
Audubon Engagement Book .....	10.50
Wetland Notecards .....	@ 1.25 or set 5.00
Barry Rokeach—TIMESCAPES .....	26.75
National Geographic—FIELD GUIDE:	
BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA .....	18.15

Ehrlich, Dobkin, and Wheye <i>BIRDER'S HANDBOOK</i> .....	16.00
Jean Richmond <i>BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA</i> ..	10.70
<i>BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA</i> an Annotated Field List .....	6.00
CHRISTMAS COUNT T-SHIRT .....	11.00
GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON PATCH ..	1.50
"DROLL YANKEE" SEED FEEDER ..	26.75
HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER (glass tube) 16 ounce .....	12.75
30 ounce .....	15.00
THISTLE FEEDER (hexagon shape plexiglass) .....	10.70

## EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS

### Rwanda and Kenya

Last month in *The GULL* Chris Carpenter announced a Texas trip for April 21–28, 1990, and promised word in this issue of an African Trip. The dates are to Oct. 23 to Nov. 7, 1990. An optional extension of Nov. 8–14 to Tanzania is also available.

The Mountain Gorilla is one of the world's most endangered species. The story of these magnificent animals has been recently publicized in film, in print and in museum exhibits. But if you talk to someone who has been among them in their mountain home he will tell you that it is an almost indescribable experience. Sadly, these huge yet docile creatures are fighting for survival. Our visit will help impress on the local people the need to preserve these animals and their habitat.

Safari is the Swahili word for journey. Journey with us through lush, tropical forests, semiarid deserts, along slopes of snow-capped peaks, past sparkling lakes and across open plains where an estimated four million animals share the land with a score of native tribes.

Rwanda and Kenya are ideal places to experience the Africa of your imagination. These friendly countries offer well-maintained parks, mild climates, good roads and transportation facilities. The

food and accommodations are superb. We will travel in minibuses with a window seat for everyone and open roofs allowing excellent photographic conditions. This safari promises to be a truly unforgettable experience.

The tour will be led by Terry Stevenson, one of Africa's most outstanding ornithologists. Terry is author of *Birds of Lake Baringo*, and serves on the Scopus and East Africa Rare Birds Committees. Just a few days after our first GGAS Kenya Tour Terry broke his own World Day record, sighting 342 species in 24 hours. In addition to being a fine naturalist, his enthusiasm and humor, combined with his knowledge of the African environment in its broadest terms make him the perfect guide for those wanting to experience a little more Africa.

Co-leading the tour will be Chris Carpenter, Extended Field Trips Director for GGAS. Chris has been organizing and leading successful and popular tours for GGAS and other groups for many years. These include two previous trips to Kenya, and tours to China, Peru, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico and throughout California. His sense of humor and organizational skills combine to provide for a relaxing and well run tour.

If you are interested in this trip, or the Texas spring migration trip, write or phone the GGAS office for more information.

## SEATTLE AUDUBON TOURS

Two Winter Bird Tours are offered by the Seattle Audubon Society. Over the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend (Jan. 13–15) and President's Day weekend (Feb. 17–19). The first will tour Western Washington and the later trip will be east of the Cascades. Each trip is by van, and the (double occupancy) cost for each trip is \$295 per person which includes two nights lodging,

picnic lunches, snacks, drinks, and "friendly, astute guide service." Call or write SAS at 619 Joshua Green Bldg., Seattle, WA 98101, (206) 622-6695.

## NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch (415) 868-9244  
Shoreline Hwy. Stinson Beach, CA 94970  
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education  
under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin  
and Sequoia Audubon Societies  
Jack Harper, President

## THANKS TO DOCENTS

Once again our wonderful volunteer docents have shared ACR's special brand of hands-on environmental education with thousands of Bay Area school children (2650 at the Bolinas Preserve and 2472 at the Bouverie Preserve). These programs take place at our preserves, but many docents also visit classrooms to prepare students for their visits. Our docents make this the internationally acclaimed program it is. They deserve the gratitude of everyone who supports ACR's educational goals. Thank you for your time, for your effort, and congratulations on your success during the past year.

## FAX IT

Thanks so much to Peter Tolger of Tam Systems in Corte Madera for his generous donation of a fax machine to ACR. Now you can fax those important messages to the Ranch. Call first to do so at (415) 868-9244.

## VISIT THE RANCH

The Ranch bookstore will remain open to the public on Tuesdays through Fridays, between 1:30 and 4 p.m. until Christmas. It will also be open on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Our new selection of merchandise for the naturalist is sure to be just what you need to fill that very special Christmas stocking.

Since ACR is a bit out of the way, why not make a day of it? Plan to spend Saturday, Dec. 9, exploring Marin and shopping at ACR. Pack a special picnic

lunch and leave early so you can enjoy the entire day. From Hwy. 101, take the Hwy. 1—Mill Valley exit. Follow the signs to Muir Woods where a winter walk in the redwoods is especially dramatic. Who knows, maybe you will be lucky enough to see the steelhead migrate up the creek as you meander along the path. From Muir Woods return to Hwy. 1 and continue north past the town of Stinson Beach to Bolinas Lagoon. Make several stops along the way for the many ducks, waders and shorebirds which winter here.

About 3 miles north of Stinson Beach stop at ACR. Check the bird blind for landbirds, check out Zumwalt Gallery, picnic in the Ranch yard, and don't forget shopping in the Bookstore.

From the Ranch continue north toward Point Reyes National Seashore. When you get to Five-Brooks turn left and drive up the dirt road to the parking area. Walk out to the pond where you have a better than even chance of seeing Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser. The walk around the pond is less than a mile, the trees will have dropped their leaves, giving a feeling of winter on this afternoon meander.

A few miles north of Five-Brooks is the headquarters of Point Reyes National Seashore at Olema. Be sure to spend a few minutes in the attractive visitors' center. Perhaps this is the year you should walk the half-mile earthquake trail—perhaps it isn't.

You can return east to Hwy. 101 on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. or continue north on Hwy. 1. If your trip originates from the north you can reverse the course described here.

Enjoy a wonderful picnic, good birding and successful shopping on Saturday, December 9. On behalf of everyone at ACR, we wish you a very happy holiday season.

—DAN MURPHY



LETTERS

I was glad to see the article reviewing the “Endangered Habitat” report in the October *GULL* and wrote the EPA as requested, for which many thanks. One quibble about this good article—I don’t know what the initials CWA stand for, unbelievable as that may seem to anyone already involved. There is always *someone* new to the issue—or if not new, only beginning to concentrate. I guess I would accept an unexplained US (as in US Army Corps of Engineers)—but please remember the ignorant and explain abbreviations.

I admire your publication *a lot*.  
CATHERINE S. LYON  
San Francisco

Thanks, for the action and your letter. We’ll try to avoid unexplained initials. CWA is the Clean Water Act.  
Editor

EAST BAY MUD SCORES

We acknowledge with pleasure that the US Environmental Protection Agency’s 1989 *Pretreatment Award of Excellence* was given to EBMUD for its program of controlling and eliminating the industrial discharge of toxic and hazardous chemicals to San Francisco Bay. Additionally, a National EPA Leadership Award was given to the District program for the beneficial use of wastewater sludge and its compost marketing program. “Compagro” is a soil conditioner commercially successful and toxics-free. EBMUD composts 25,000 yards per year, and demand for the product far exceeds output. EBMUD’s monitoring of industries and its effective treatment program are responsible.

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

In Honor of

Elsie Roemer’s birthday

Gift of

Clark & Roxie Glerson

In Memory of

Aileen Dalton

American Federation of Arts

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1250 Addison St., #107B, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.  
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Berkeley, California 94702

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THE GULL

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**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288  
Update: 524-5592**

**Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.**

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to  
join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership  
renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues  
\$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate  
Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

**The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,  
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.**

**The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.**